

## ER Site No. 72: Operation Beaver Site

ADS: 1333

Operable Unit: Canyons Test Area

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### Site History

ER Site 72 was created by a single test conducted under Project Beaver on September 18, 1968. Project Beaver studied the feasibility of creating helicopter landing zones in wooded areas by using a device that employed explosive-driven steel rods to cut trees. The blast overpressure following the explosion cleared the debris. The objective of the test was to determine if a continuous rod warhead design was effective in clearing a wooded area. The continuous rod warhead was constructed using square, stainless steel rods welded at alternate ends in a zigzag fashion and folded into a cylinder. Approximately 305 lb of Composition-4 (C-4) explosives were placed in the innermost layer of the cylinder and detonated, producing an expanding steel perimeter that cut down trees and vegetation within a 50-ft radius of ground zero. The only hazardous materials used in this test were C-4 explosives, which are comprised of predominantly RDX. Because the detonations were high order, all of the HE were transferred to thermal energy and no explosive residues are expected to remain.

### Constituents of Concern

HE

### Current Hazards

There are no current hazards at this site related to contamination of the surface or subsurface soils. There are no structures or stored materials that remain at the site that could cause a potential hazard.

## **Current Status of Work**

An administrative NFA proposal was submitted to the EPA in May 1995. This administrative NFA was rejected and confirmatory sampling was conducted in the spring of 1996. A confirmatory sampling NFA proposal was submitted in August 1996. ER Site 72 was deemed acceptable for NFA by the NMED in February 1998. The NFA was approved by NMED in July 2000 after completing the public review and permit modification process.

## **Future Work Planned**

No future work is planned.

## **Waste Volume Estimated/Generated**

No waste has been generated at this site to date.

**Information for ER Site 72 was last updated Jan 22, 2003.**